GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2042
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
MANUFACTURE OF NEW ORS FOR DIARRHOEA
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become the first country to manufacture a new and better solution (ORS) with a view to bringing down the number of death cases per year due to diarrhoea in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost of the new solution as compared to the older one?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Though India is not the first country to manufacture new ORS, however recently the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) in its 52nd and 53rd meeting held on 10.4.2003 and 11.3.2004 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Director General Health Services after deliberations agreed that the WHO recommended formula of ORS containing sodium 75mmol/1 and glucose 75 m mol/1 and osmolarity 245 m mol/1 could be accepted for use in India and the approved composition may be included in the Indian Pharmacopeia.

(c) At present, the cost of the old ORS solution is Rs. 1.83 per packet and the cost of the new ORS solution is Rs. 1.62 per packet.